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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

OCTOBER, 1855.

AID OF THE PRESS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

The power of the press has passed into a proverb; and the enlightenment of the nineteenth century may well lead us to expect its cheerful advocacy of every enterprise that aims, with any reasonable prospect of success, to promote the general welfare. Such an enterprise is the Cause of Peace; a cause common to all creeds and all parties; a cause restricted to no class, and circumscribed by no geographical limits; a cause, in its sphere and aims, identical with Christianity, underlying and sustaining every other for the good of mankind, and seeking to pour over all lands, and into every city and village, every hamlet and habitation, the richest blessings of earth and heaven.

Such is the cause in whose behalf we would fain enlist the whole periodical press. We solicit its aid, because we know its power. It is the mightiest engine of influence now at work upon the general mind, and could hardly fail to carry the public in favor of any object on which it should persistently concentrate its energies. There are in our country nearly three thousand periodicals of one kind and another, some two thousand of which are newspapers, and of the latter perhaps 150 or 200 religious papers. Let all these unite for any object; and how sure, speedy and decisive would be their success. Let the newspapers alone array themselves in a solid phalanx against any measure, policy or usage; and it could not long stand before their combined and persevering assaults. No sect or party, however numerous and strong, can safely brave their united power. The press here is mightier far than cabinet or congress, the virtual dictator of our policy, the arbiter of peace and war.

We have ever sought to enlist the whole periodical press of our land, but more especially its religious journals, in zealous, habitual advocacy of our object. We need and ought to have their aid in this way; no other object can be more worthy of their support than the Cause of Peace; and Christian editors, if duly impressed with its importance, and thoroughly imbued with its spirit, might advocate its claims with much ease, and with great success in the long run.

For this purpose we have proposed several methods. We have solicited our friends, who possess the requisite qualifications, to write or select popular articles on the subject for the papers which they patronise, or with whose conductors they have sufficient influence to secure their insertion; a service that need not cost them any large amount of labor, but which would probably be quite acceptable to editors, and very useful to its interests. We wish, however, to interest editors themselves in looking after this cause. We would have them not only make selections for their columns on the subject, but prepare in its behalf such editorials as its exigencies may from time to time demand. As Christian men, standing on the watch-tower of public observation for the general weal, they certainly ought to have an eye constantly upon this great interest of the age and the world. We are glad to find some of them performing so well what we conceive to be their duty in this respect; and earnestly do we hope that *all* the conductors of the religious press in particular, will ere long give to this cause the attention and the advocacy it so well deserves, so much needs, and must in time receive.

In this work we offer our aid by sending them our periodical, in which they will find from month to month much matter worthy, we hope, of a place in their columns—occasionally an argument or statement of some length deserving attention, but more frequently brief articles in the form of statistics, facts or anecdotes, interesting to readers in general, and well fitted to impress the claims of this cause. It is ceaseless attrition that wears away the rock; and only by frequent and long-continued iteration can we ever hope to change the wrong habits of mind so long prevalent everywhere on this subject. Most earnestly do we solicit the attention of religious editors to this matter, and shall send a copy of this periodical regularly to them all, in the hope of their using it for our cause in the way we have just suggested.

THE FIRST REQUISITE TO INTEREST IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

The Great Teacher told the men of his day, that “the whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.” This maxim of our Saviour is applicable to all maladies, whether physical or moral; for no man, unconscious of his disease, will take medicine for its cure, and no person or community will employ means for the correction of any wrong or evil which they do not distinctly perceive, and somewhat adequately feel.

Here is the germ of every reform—a distinct, vivid, settled conviction of its necessity. Men first see and feel an evil, and then set themselves to the task of removing it. Hence all great reforms. It was not till men distinctly saw and deeply felt the evils of knight-errantry, feudal wars and judicial combats, that they attempted in earnest the extinction of those customs. Just so of every other wicked or mischievous practice. So long as men remained